translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network; and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.

4.   (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the network is HTTP-capable and employs Transport Control Protocol (TCP).

20.   (Amended) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the control program operates the control device to receive a request from the client to the heterogeneous proxy server that the data file be received from the first data server and then sent to the client.

21.   (Amended) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the control program operates the control device to allow a client to access data files residing on the first and a second data server through the network, the control program being configured to operate the control device to perform the functions of:

coupling the heterogeneous proxy server to the second data server through a second local network protocol, the first and second local network protocols being different;

selectively receiving at the heterogeneous proxy server a data file from at least one of the first or the second data servers by employing the respective first or second local network protocols;

translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network; and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.